

HARBOR AT ROCK ISLAND, ILL.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

RELATIVE TO

An obstruction of the harbor at Rock Island, Ill.

JANUARY 30, 1880.—Referred to the Committee on Commerce and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, January 29, 1880.

The Secretary of War has the honor to transmit to the House of Representatives, in compliance with the resolution of that body, dated the 23d instant, calling for information as to an obstruction of the harbor on the Mississippi River, at the city of Rock Island, Ill., and the expense of removing same; a letter from the Chief of Engineers, of the 28th instant, and accompanying copy of report of Capt. A. Mackenzie, Corps of Engineers, containing the information required.

ALEX. RAMSEY,
Secretary of War.

The SPEAKER
Of the House of Representatives.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS,
Washington, D. C., January 28, 1880.

SIR: I have respectfully to return herewith the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 25th instant, referred to this office for report:

That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, authorized and requested to furnish for the use of the House of Representatives such information as to an obstruction of the harbor on the Mississippi River at the city of Rock Island, in the State of Illinois, and the expense of removing the same, as he may have on the files of his department; and, in obedience to its requirements, to submit the inclosed copy of a report of Capt. A. Mackenzie, Corps of Engineers, with accompanying map, which will afford the desired information.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. G. WRIGHT,
*Chief of Engineers,
Brigadier and Brevet Major General, U. S. A.*

Hon. ALEXANDER RAMSEY,
Secretary of War.

UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE,
Rock Island, November 5, 1879.

GENERAL: In accordance with instructions contained in an indorsement dated office Chief of Engineers, September 13, 1879, on letter addressed by citizens of Rock Island to Hon. T. J. Henderson, I have the honor to report as follows:

I have no maps or records in my office showing the condition of the river near the city wharf previous to the construction of the dam at Moline.

The evidence of old citizens and pilots is to the effect that the bar at the foot of Rock Island has been gradually moving down, narrowing year by year the channel in front of the levee.

Undoubtedly, the construction of the dam had much to do with the formation of this bar. Before the dam was constructed, a large volume of water, with strong current, swept down between Rock Island and the Illinois shore, preventing the formation of a bar immediately in front of the city wharf. Now the amount of water passing the dam is so small as to have no effect on the bar.

I transmit herewith a tracing, showing the condition of the harbor at the present time. It will be seen that shoal water extends along the entire city front, and that the bar extending down from the foot of Rock Island has so encroached on the wharf as to leave little room for low-water navigation.

The area over which dredging should be done is shown on the tracing in red squares, and a table appended shows the approximate amount of material to be removed from each tier of squares to give about 4 feet at low water.

If any work is to be done, I would recommend the removal by dredging of deposit along wharf, amounting to about 19,000 cubic yards; and the removal of as much of the bar on lines parallel to the current as an appropriation would permit.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. MACKENZIE,
Captain of Engineers.

The CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, U. S. A.,
Washington, D. C.

Table of quantities of material to be removed from bar in the Mississippi River at Rock Island, Ill.

Squares.	Area in square feet.	Cubic yards.	Cost at 25 cents per yard.	Total cost.
a—x	161,000	18,904	\$4,726 00	\$4,726 00
A—C	52,200	2,077	519 25	
D—I	165,000	12,666	3,166 50	19,600 50
J—N	186,000	18,681	4,670 25	
O—T	194,400	22,438	5,609 50	24,326 50
U—B'	228,000	22,540	5,635 00	
Total				2,432 65
Add 10 per cent				26,759 15
Total estimate				

SURVEY OF BAR
at
ROCK ISLAND ILL.

*Ordered by letter of the Chief of Engr's
dated Sept 13 1879*

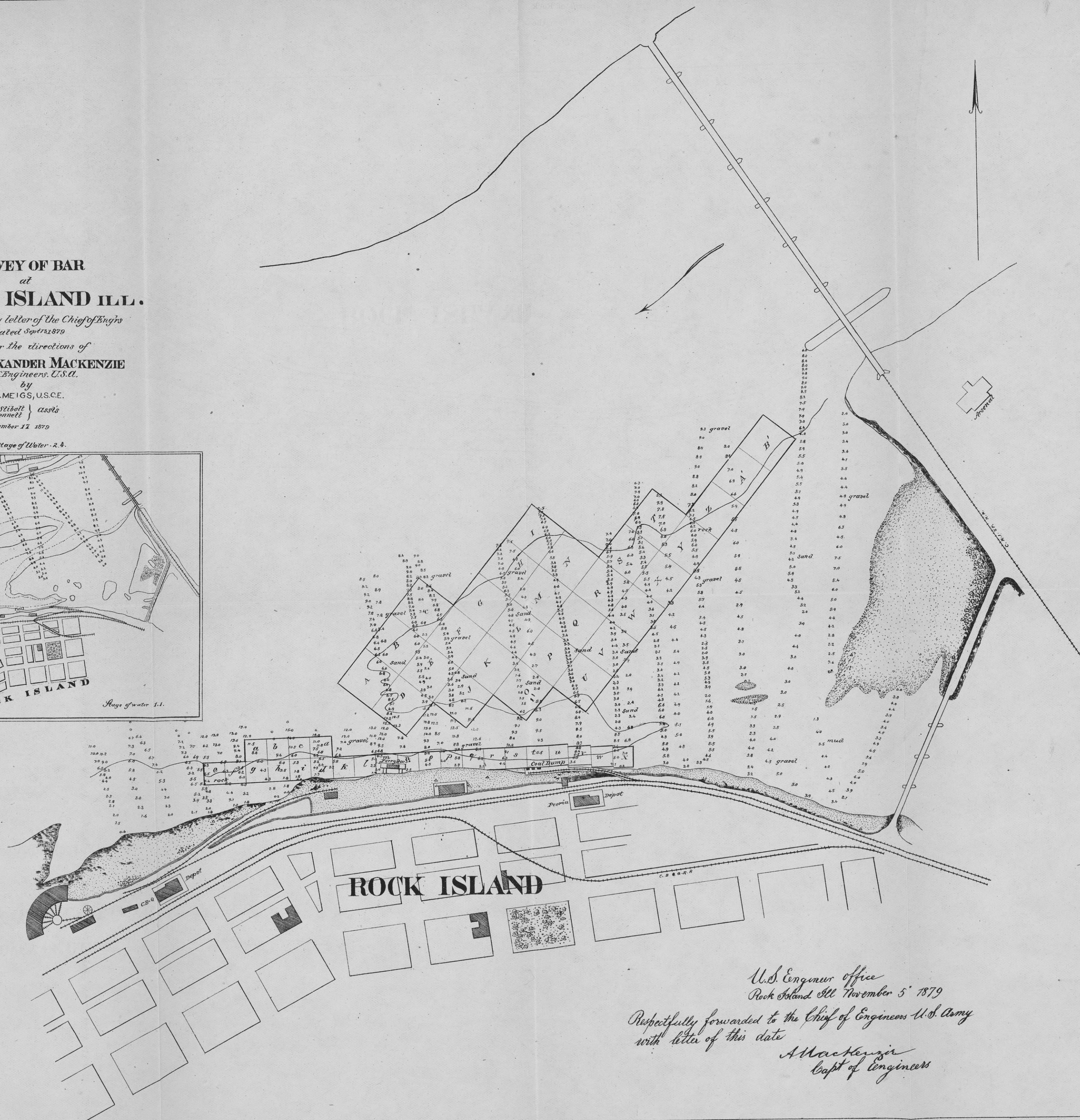
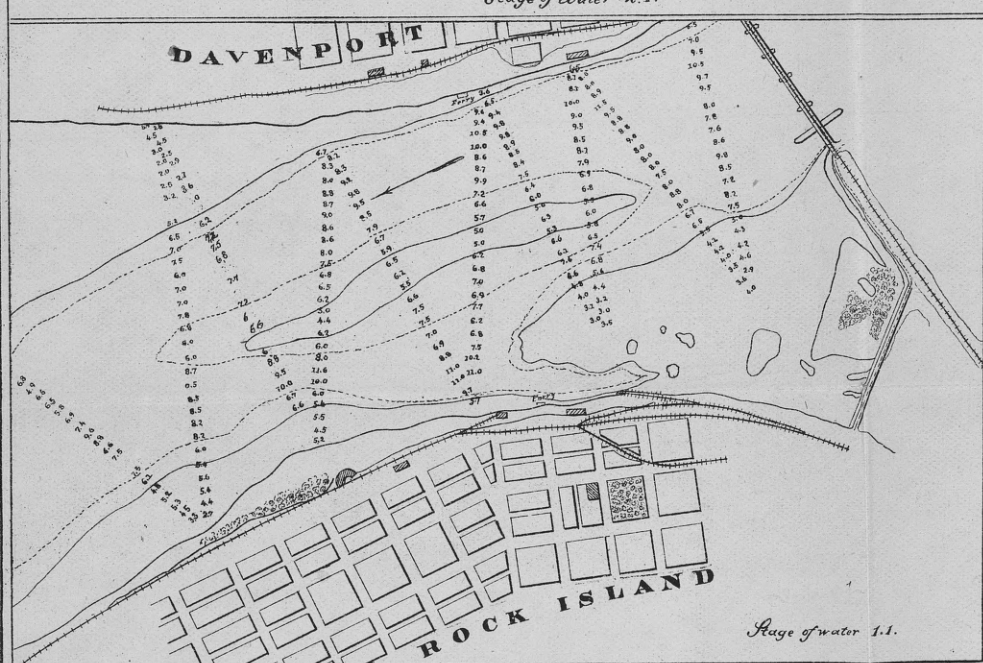
Made under the directions of

Captⁿ. ALEXANDER MACKENZIE
Comdr. U. S. Frigate "U.S.A."

by
M. MEIGS, U.S.C.E.

A. J. Tibbitt } *Asst's*
C. M. Bennett }
 September 17 1879

Stage of Water. 2.4.



U.S. Engineer office
Rock Island Ill November 5 1879

Respectfully forwarded to the Chief of Engineers U.S. Army
with letter of this date

A Mackenzie
Capt of Engineers